

February 19, 2013

Dear Behavioral Health Stakeholders:

As of July 2012 The Mental Health Services and Addiction and Prevention Services blended under reorganization of state government to become Behavioral Health Services (BHS) under the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Community Services & Programs Commission (CSP) Behavioral Health Services. This merger has allowed for a great sharing of resources, expertise in the workforce and in the infrastructure for delivery of services.

***Behavioral Health Services Vision:*** *Kansas communities support prevention and recovery throughout the lifespan.*

***Behavioral Health Mission:*** *Partnering to promote prevention, treatment and recovery to ensure Kansans with behavior health needs live safe, healthy, successful and self-determined lives in their communities.*

As the BHS we see great opportunity for establishing a system of delivery of services that is focused on prevention, establishing early intervention, stabilization and developing a recovery oriented system of care that supports and promotes long term recovery for participants and families across the life span. We identify recovery from mental and substance use disorders as a process of change through which individuals work to improve their own health and wellbeing, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.

To design a system of services that will achieve this we identify four major dimensions that are essential to a life in recovery:

- **Health:** overcoming or managing one's disorder as well as living in a physically and emotionally healthy way;
- **Home:** a stable and safe place to live;
- **Purpose:** meaningful daily activities such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society; and
- **Community:** relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

The **Governor's Mental Health Initiative** provides us the opportunity, with your help, to begin this process of design of services. Under the initiative funding will be available (Suggested \$5 million) to increase effectiveness for at risk consumers through allocations to the 27 Kansas Community Mental Health Centers (CMHS) to support at-risk consumers. An additional funding (Suggested of \$5 million) will be allocated to the creation of Regional Recovery Support Centers that will provide resource sharing and accessibility to all CMHCs in the defined region. This regional system will provide the means for CMHCs to have access to resources for consumer services that they have not always been able to access or afford for targeted at risk consumers populations.

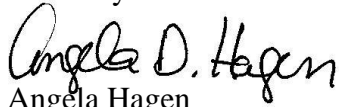
To begin the process for these changes KDADS/ BHS will be engaging stakeholders groups in the coming weeks, through invitation, and by public media, to participate in information gathering, and design recommendation for achieving desired outcomes of the Governors Mental Health Initiative.

The stakeholders in the CMHC contract design group will make recommendations about the funding allocations to the 27 CMHCs. This will include designating the target population, determining how the money will be tracked, defining outcomes, and describing monitoring and evaluation activities. This group will meet weekly throughout March via teleconference and will consist largely of CMHC representatives and customers of the CMHC system.

For the Regional Recovery Support Centers, a small group of stakeholders representing the key areas of the Governor's Mental Health Initiative will be formed to advise KDADS in the development of the regional model. The regional system will provide the means to expand evidenced-based services, parent/peer recovery support services, employment/housing support and options, intensive case management/care coordination services, and an array of crisis stabilization services. To gather broad-based input, regional town hall meetings will be held throughout March. The regional town hall meeting will be open to the public and will be advertised through email notifications to service providers, KDADS website, and through public media.

I want to thank each of you for your commitment to providing services and helping KDADS/BHS design this new system of delivery that will impact the lives of many Kansas residents in achieving the four major dimensions that are essential to a life in recovery that we have committed to provide through all of our efforts

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela D. Hagen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Angela Hagen

Director

KDADS/CSP/BHS